

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) An optical connector component, comprising:

a ferrule;

a member affixed to the ferrule having an outer surface, a portion projecting from the outer surface of the member for restricting movement of the ferrule in a first direction, and an ~~engagement portion~~ end face for restricting movement of the ferrule in a second direction opposite the first direction; and

a plug frame configured as a one-piece component, floatingly supporting said member, said plug frame defining a hole through a surface thereof having a side wall, for restricting movement of said member in the first direction, and an abutment portion for restricting movement of the member in the second direction,

wherein said projecting portion of said member is inserted into the hole of said plug frame, so that said projecting portion of said member abuts against the side wall of the hole of said plug frame to prevent movement of said member in the first direction, ~~and the engagement portion~~ the end face of said member abuts against said abutment portion of said plug frame to prevent movement of said member in the second direction, and said ferrule has two ends adapted for respectively receiving end portions of core optical fibers of fiber optic cables of first and second optical connector components.

6. (Canceled)

7. (New) An optical connector component, comprising:

a ferrule;

a member affixed to the ferrule having an outer surface, a portion projecting from the outer surface of the member for restricting movement of the ferrule in a first direction, and an end face for restricting movement of the ferrule in a second direction opposite the first direction, at least a portion of the outer surface of said member being deformable, so that said projected portion can be reduced in diameter; and

a plug frame configured as a one-piece component, floatingly supporting said member, said plug frame defining a hole through a surface thereof having a side wall, for restricting movement of said member in the first direction, and an abutment portion for restricting movement of the member in the second direction,

wherein said projected portion of said member is inserted into the hole of said plug frame, so that said projected portion of said member abuts against the side wall of the hole of said plug frame to prevent movement of said member in the first direction, the end face of said member abuts against said abutment portion of said plug frame to prevent movement of said member in the second direction, and said ferrule has two ends adapted for respectively receiving end portions of core optical fibers of fiber optic cables of first and second optical connector components.

8. (New) The optical connector component of claim 5, wherein said plug frame comprises a first engagement portion on a first side of said plug frame for engaging the first optical connector component, and a second engagement portion on a second side of said plug frame for engaging the second optical connector component.